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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

RURAL DISTRICT OF WHITTLESEY,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1925.

Area in Acres	...	...	25075
Population at Census 1921	...	...	3422
Estimated Population 1925	...	...	3514

Physical features of the district—fen alluvial soil and pierced through at certain points by gravel caps.

Number of Inhabited Houses, 1921		...	687
Number of families or separate occupiers		...	794
Rateable Value—	Land	...	£25132
,,	Buildings	...	£20582
1d. rate per £ produces ...	...	...	£122

		M.	F.	
Birth Rate	Legitimate ...	39	26	Total 67
	Illegitimate ...	1	1	
Birth Rate per 1000		...	...	19·6
Deaths from Puerperal Causes			...	0
,,	Measles ...		...	0
,,	Whooping Cough		...	0
,,	Diarrhœa (under 2)		...	2
NOTIFIABLE DISEASES—				
,,	Diphtheria ...		...	1
,,	Erysipelas ...		...	2
,,	Tuberculosis, Pulmonary		...	4
,,	Other T.B. ...		...	1
,,	Pneumonia ...		...	2

Nothing unusal has occurred in the way of sickness during the year.

DEATHS— 32 M. ... 14 F.	M.	F.
CAUSES—Tuberculosis	1	2
Cancer	3	0
Cerebral Hœmorrage ...	4	1
Arteris Selerosis	3	1
Bronchitis	5	1
Diarrhœa (under 2)	2	0
Congenital Debility	2	0
Suicide	0	1
Other Deaths from Violence	1	0
Other Defined Disease ...	5	6

Death Rate per 1000 ... 12·7

Infant Mortality—Legitimate	...	6	1
Illegitimate	...	1	0

Death Rate per 1000 Births ... 119·7

Occupations are Agriculture and Brickmaking. There are no Hospitals or other forms of gratuitous medical relief, except the Poor Law which is fairly well made use of.

There have been no special causes of sickness during the year, and no epidemics.

The nursing is supplied by one District Nurse supported by voluntary contributions.

There is no provisions for infectious diseases, and no Certified Midwives—Maternity and Child Welfare are administered by 5 Centres—March, Wisbech, Little Downham and Littleport, but no centre for Whittlesey. There are no Day Nurseries, or School Clinics. Tuberculosis Clinics are at Ely, Wisbech, and March—Hospitals provided, and subscribed for by Local Authority and County Council.

Local :	County Council :
Smallpox.	Ipswich Borough Sanitorium.
	Wynton Hostel.
	Holt Sanitorium.

There is no Institution provided for unmarried mothers, nor any Ambulance facilities.

Veneral Diseases are dealt with at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

No arrangements for Laboratory Work, and there are no adoptive Acts or Bye-laws for Sanitary administrations.

The Public Health Staff consists of one Medical Officer of Health, and one Sanitary Inspector, both part time appointments.

Several New Houses are in course of construction, and more contemplated.

The Water supply of the district is from surface wells, rivers and dykes, all more or less contaminated. New houses have the advantage of metal tanks and rain water.

There is no Drainage or Sewerage in the district except—a surface water drain at Coates. A few of the better houses are provided with water closets, but the majority are privy vaults. Comparatively new houses at King's Dyke are provided with pails.

There is no Scavenging in the district.

There has no progress being made during the past five years in the improvement of the public health.

JOHN J. WADDELOW,

Medical Officer of Health.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to hand you a report of Sanitary Work carried out in the Whittlesey Rural District for the year ending December 1925.

WATER. No complaint as to shortage of water was received. The source of supply being chiefly from wells and rain water.

RIVERS & STREAMS. There does not appear to be any pollution of the rivers and streams in the area.

DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE. There is no system of drainage or sewage disposal in the district.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. The Closets are chiefly of the privy vault type to the old houses and earth pail closets to the new houses.

INSPECTION. 225 houses were inspected, no notices of nuisance were served.

HOUSING. The Council have accepted tenders for building six workmen's dwellings at Eastrea, and 14 at Pond's Bridge, and 30 more in various parts of the district are being arranged for. Nine houses have been or are being erected by private enterprise There are no serious cases of overcrowding and no notices were necessary to remedy defects.

MILK SUPPLY. The milk supply is adequate and all the cow sheds are in good order. No notices were served as to defects.

MEAT. Three slaughter houses are registered in the district There were two notices served to remedy defects which were carried out before registration.

DISINFECTING. All cases of infectious disease notified by the M.O.H. were given disinfectants, and the premises disinfected after convalescence.

Your obedient servant,

H. W. HAWKINS.